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SECURITY INFORMATION~~

AD/RR

24 June 1952

Chief, D/I

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Your Recent Visit to [REDACTED]

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25X1X7 You will recall that upon your return from a visit to [REDACTED] recently you told me of the interest of the branches there in getting our comments on some information which they had received. They were interested in any information which we may have on 57 mm AA gun production at a new factory in Kharbarovsk. Our [REDACTED] indicate that the only information they have is not very recent and that the factory was producing diesel engine and tractor parts. However, I believe that [REDACTED] will be able to supply you with some additional information.

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2. Regarding the other items of interest to [REDACTED] I am attaching the comments from our respective branches which I believe will provide the answers they would like to have. Your attention is directed to the fact that we have quoted our sources and I would suggest that if you were planning on transmitting this information to [REDACTED] that the sources be deleted.

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Encls.

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2 copies memo dated 20 June '52 from [REDACTED]

2 copies memo dated 20 June '52 from [REDACTED]

(with attach. No. 1 to Source 3, C-25X1A9A)

2 copies memo dated 23 June '52 from [REDACTED]

(with 4 attachments)

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[REDACTED]  
23 June 1952

Distribution:  
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Subject: Comment on Questions raised in [redacted] Conversations.

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During my recent conversation in [redacted] a number of questions came up which called for confirmation or comment. These were noted and since my return have been checked by our analysts.

These questions and our comments follow:

1. Are there any motor transport production facilities in Tientsin, China?

We accept as possibly true an article on "The Machine Industry of Tientsin" published in the Chinese periodical Chi-chih Chih-tao, 15 July 1950, which states that of the 960 machine building plants in Tientsin equipped with heavy machinery, seven were engaged in producing "automobile parts and repairs." The Tientsin Automobile Assembly Plant, according to this article, is one of the four largest machinery plants in Tientsin. These four plants are affiliated with the North China Machine Building Enterprise and account for 900 machine tools or one-third of all the machine tools in Tientsin.

A United States Army study reports that in 1945 the Nationalist Government took over a Tientsin plant of Japanese origin which was capable of manufacturing cars. In May 1946 the plant produced the first Chinese designed motor vehicle. This was a tricycle similar to the Japanese "Tahatze." It had a single cylinder air-cooled engine and 1,103 parts. The vehicle was well received. In 1947 production plans called for 3 units per day.

On 22 September 1951, the Chinese newspaper Han-fang Hs-ku published a story, which we accept as possibly true, reporting that two jeeps, the first to be built in any Chinese factory, were completed in the shops of the Tientsin Motor Car Factory. The jeeps, according to the story, had successfully passed tests and were to be shipped to Peiping as presents to Mao Tse-tung on the occasion of the national festival of 1 October 1951. This factory was said to have completed a touring car which was to be exhibited in the North China Urban-Rural Goods Exchange Exhibition scheduled in Peiping in the near future.

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Subject: Comment on Questions raised in [redacted] Conversations. (Cont'd.)

2. What is the nature and extent of industrial development in the Lanchow area?

Several reports we believe to be reliable in the aggregate indicate that the Communists have selected the Lanchow-Hsining-Wuwei triangle for development as a special industrial area. Highways have been built between the cities and some 1,000 new branch roads connect factories and mines in the area. There are indications that Lanchow has been selected as possible co-capital of China should the Government find it necessary to leave Peking. The industrialization of the Northwest appears to be a hedge against possible loss of Manchuria in any future conflict.

In September 1951, Russian engineers and planner arrived in Lanchow and divided the city into three parts; residential area, university and research area, and a heavy industry area.

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By November 1951, more than 20,000 men were employed in Lanchow construction. According to this unconfirmed report, construction in the residential area had been completed; work in the university area was to be completed in August 1952. The industrial area construction was not expected to end before the end of 1952.

Several 1951 unconfirmed reports indicate that the transfer of plants from Shanghai and North China to the Lanchow area had begun. Among the plants mentioned were a machine manufacturing plant, a pharmaceutical company, an arsenal, and a motor vehicle parts works.

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Another report dated November 1951, and considered as possibly true, states that 30,000 coal miners, 20,000 iron miners, 3,500 chemical workers, 12,000 steel and iron workers, and 3,000 non-ferrous metal workers are employed in the Lanchow area. Some 6,000 persons from Shanghai and Hankow are employed by a number of machinery factories. Other industrial enterprises mentioned are a heavy electrical equipment plant, an oil refinery, cement factories, and several arsenals.

3. What is the extent of Soviet Technical aid to China Industry?

The number of Soviet advisors in China is frequently cited as 10,000. These are concentrated mostly in Manchuria, North China, and Sinkiang in the centers of the mining, manufacturing and metalworking industries. We consider this figure low, but we have no information to support a higher estimate.

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Subject: Comment on Questions raised in [redacted] Conversations. (Cont'd.)

A 1949-1950 report considered reliable suggests that Russia is not sending its top-flight technical men to the Far East. Soviet engineers usually serve in an advisory capacity. Their suggestions however, are accepted as orders in most plants.

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4. What is the nature and purpose of armour plating of small Craft in Whampoa?

The armouring of small wooden craft by the Communist in South China has been the subject of many reports, the earliest of which was received in 1950. While many of the reports have been rated of poor reliability, their cumulative effect has been to convince our analysts of their general accuracy.

In the Whampoa area, the armouring operation is described as sheathing bows and sometimes the entire hulls of small wooden craft (25 to 75 dead weight tons) with steel plate .12 to .4 inches in thickness.

These reports mentioned the use of large numbers of motorized junk with steel-plated bows for patrol service in Whampoa and in the river between Whampoa and Canton. The vessels are said to be armed with machine guns and manned by Chinese soldiers.

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[REDACTED]

In October 1951, gunboats stationed at Shengho and Humen (113-41, 22-49) were used to transport supplies to the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

[REDACTED]

In December 1951, an unconfirmed report stated that 30 motorized junks were sent to Ch'iumgchow Bay (110-21, 20-02) to form the First Navy Guerrilla Corps. This corps was said to consist of 210 Indochinese and 100 Chinese sailors, and its purpose was to raid the Indochina coast.

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5. Can you confirm that the Cegielski plant in Posen, Poland, is building special military transport coaches for USSR at the rate of 500 per month; that these are shipped to Wroclaw, Poland, for interior finishing; and that 4,000 coaches have already been delivered?

No information is available about such production in Poland. Poland, however, has the facilities and the know-how to produce military transport coaches. Our analysts feel that any report of

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Subject: Comment on Questions raised in [redacted] Conversations. (Cont'd.)

such production could possibly be true for the following reasons:

1. While the Cegielski plant is known largely as a locomotive producer, reliable reports indicate that 12 to 16 cars per month of the coach type were produced in the plant as late as 1949. There is some evidence that some of the Cegielski cars were finished at other plants. The current status of the plant and production is not known.

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2. According to one unconfirmed report dated October 1, 1949, the Pafawag plant in Wroclaw in October 1949, began to produce troop transport cars for the USSR at the rate of one every two days. The cars seated 130 men and had an armored cupola at the center.

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Since Polish plans for 1952 call for construction of 16,000 freight cars and 400 passenger cars, the production of 500 military transport cars per month is considered well within Polish capabilities.

6. Can you confirm a report that Hungary has delivered a special train to USSR which has been accepted by USSR as a standard model for further production?

Several sources confirm this report. The special train referred to appears to be the Diesel-electric train unit produced by the Budapest Ganz Works. The first order for these trains was placed about January 1, 1951. In September 1951, the plant was supposed to be working on the seventh train set.

A description of the train appeared in the March 1952, issue of the magazine "Electrotechnika".

The train consists of six coaches. The number 1 and 6 coaches are the motor coaches. These have 5 axles and a driver's control at each end. Coaches Nos. 2, 3, 4, and 5, are trailers and have 4 axles. Coach bodies and bogies are all welded; couplings and buffers are automatic.

The power plant of the train consists of 4 engines; two of 600 hp each for motive power and two of 220 hp each for auxiliary services. Total power of train: 1640 hp.

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Subject: Comment on Questions raised in [redacted] Conversations. (cont'd.)

Weight of train with full load is 390 tons. Each motor coach has 2 driven axles, the total load of which is 76 tons. Normal speed is 105 km per hour; maximum speed on level grade with no wind is 125-130 km per hour.

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In September, 1951, two of the early trains were back in the [redacted] shops for complete overhaul and repair of damage caused by rough handling by Russian railway operators.